

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 062000Z MAY 76 ZFF3
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2786
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0889

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRAVEL TO OASGA AND ELSEWHERE

REF: A) STATE 104672, B) BRIDGETOWN 0799, C) PORT OF SPAIN 1118,
D) GEORGETOWN 0772

1. BECAUSE OF MECHANICAL PROBLEM TOTALLY BEYOND OUR CONTROL REFTEL
A WAS ONLY RECEIVED MORNING MAY 6.

2. AS I INDICATED IN REFTEL D, I AM REASONABLY CONFIDENT BURNHAM
AND WILLS WOULD WELCOME LUNCHEON STOPOVER BY SECRETARY AND THAT
INVITATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IF THEY FELT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE
LIKELY TO ACCEPT.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS IN RAISING MATTER WITH
GOG. FIRST PREFERENCE, IN MY VIEW, WOULD BE FOR YOU OR SECRETARY
TO RAISE WITH WILLS DURING HIS LAYOVER IN NEWYORK EN ROUTE HOME FROM
UNCTAD, AND PARTICULARLY IF A MEETING BETWEEN WILLS AND SECRETARY
MATERIALIZES. SECOND OPTION WOULD BE FOR ME TO RAISE DIRECTLY WITH
BURNHAM PRIOR TO WILLS' RETURN.

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4. I READ WITH INTEREST AMBASSADOR FAY'S VIEWS CONVEYED IN REFTEL C. AS WILL BE APPARENT FROM A READING OF MY RATIONALE FOR VISIT IN REFTEL D, I AM NOT UNAWARE THAT THERE IS A CERTAIN ELEMENT OF RISK INVOLVED IN A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO GUYANA AT THIS JUNCTURE. I BELIEVE ONE RISK IS THAT THE VISIT WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD OR MISINTERPRETED BY OUR OWN PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION. ANOTHER IS THAT DESCRIBED BY AMBASSADOR FAY AND STILL A THIRD RISK IS THAT BURNHAM HIMSELF COULD PORTRAY VISIT EITHER AS A CAPITULATION OR AS A THREAT, DEPENDING UPON CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, I HAVE AGAIN REVIEWED WITH THE INNER CORE OF STAFF HERE THE PROS AND CONS OF POSSIBLE BRIEF STOP BY SECRETARY WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THERE IS CONSENSUS THE GAMBLE IS WORTH TAKING. OUR REASONING IS THAT BURNHAM IS IN PART A VICTIM OF HIS OWN HYPER-ACTIVE IMAGINATION AND PARANOIA. A CHANCE TO LAY CARDS ON TABLE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM LATTER HOW USG VIEWS GUYANA'S DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL THRUST, WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT HELP TO DISPEL BURNHAM'S SUSPICIONS. THE MERE FACT OF A VISIT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO GUYANA WOULD HELP CUT GROUND FROM ANY FUTURE VAGUE ALLEGATIONS BY BURNHAM THAT HE IS BEING THREATENED OR PRESSURED BY THE U.S. WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT A SINGLE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IS LIKELY TO REVERSE GUYANA'S INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENT, OR MORE SPECIFICALLY ITS DE FACTO ALLIANCE WITH CUBA. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE BURNHAM IS STILL SUFFICIENTLY PRAGMATIC TO BE WARY OF BECOMING TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON ANY FOREIGN POWER. IN THIS CONNECTION YOU WILL RECALL, AS REPORTED IN GEORGETOWN 362, THAT WILLS SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY IN HIS EARLIER MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, HAD THE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BQ USG BEEN RAISED, THAT GUYANA'S PROGRESS TOWARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN GUARANTEEING NATIONAL SECURITY AND ABSENCE OF ASSISTANCE BY USG WOULD TEND TO MAKE GUYANA HOSTAGE TO OFFERS FROM USSR, PRC, ETC.

6. INDEED THIS ELEMENT REQUIRES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN ADVANCE OF VISIT AS SET FORTH MY LETTER TO YOU ON APRIL 23. TO CLARIFY FURTHER MY LETTER, I SHOULD SAY THAT IN CT JUDGMENT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF DECISION ON PENDING USAID LOANS WERE SIMPLY TO BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER RESULTS OF VISIT COULD BE ASSESSED.

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THOUGH IT WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH VISIT TO AUTHORIZE ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE PENDING LOANS, ANY SUCH DECISION SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT OF THE VISIT IN ORDER TO AVOID IMPRESSION OF REWARDING GUYANA'S RECENT HOSTILE BEHAVIOR OR THAT WE BELIEVE LOANS MIGHT INFLUENCE GUYANA'S FUTURE BEHAVIOR. THE ONLY POSTURE INCONSISTENT WITH VISIT WOULD BE A PRIOR DECISION TO CANCEL BOTH LOANS.

7. ASSUMING BURNHAM IS RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF A VISIT AND ISSUES INVITATION, WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS WITH DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER MANIFESTATIONS WHICH MIGHT CLOUD THE VISIT. WITH CHEDDIE JAGAN AND PPP HAVING SHARED PLATFORM WITH BURNHAM AT MAY DAY RALLY, WHICH FOCUSED HEAVILY ON DEFENSE AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION, AND WITH GROWING RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN JAGAN AND BURNHAM, BURNHAMBM HAS ADEQUATE MEANS OF RESTRAINING JAGAN AND HIS FOLLOWERS IF HE DECIDES TO GO AHEAD.

LOGISTICS OF SUCH A BRIEF VISIT WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL PLANNING, BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS ENTIRELY FEASIBLE TO ENCOMPASS A MINIMUM TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH BURNHAM OVER LUNCHEON WITHIN A TOTAL ELAPSED TIME OF FOUR HOURS ON GROUND. FOREGOING CONTEMPLATES POSSIBLE USE OF HELICOPTER BETWEEN AIRPORT AND GEORGETOWN OR OTHER VENUE FOR LUNCHEON
KREBS

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